

“open,” continued the woman, “will produce the *flower of the mind*: it will blow in proportion to the knowledge you acquire, and will thus mark your improvement. The other bud contains the *flower of the graces*: it will open without your thinking of it, and will give a lustre to all the other flowers.”

“Ah! Madam!” cried the Princess as she took the flower

“what

“what return can I make for so valuable a gift? I entreat you to go along with me: Lidoriana will prove to you both her gratitude and mine.”

“My child,” said Verdurina, “you cannot better testify your gratitude, than by showing me one day the flower I leave you in all its freshness. I will return in three years, and if it be then

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